

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Third Middlesex Senatorial District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Third Middlesex Senatorial District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 1.1% (1,326) reside in the Third Middlesex Senatorial District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (251) of Third Middlesex Senatorial District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 73.4% of admissions from the Third Middlesex Senatorial District were male and 26.6% were female.
- Over 64.1% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 88.9% of admissions were white non-Latino, 3.5% were black non-Latino, 4.0% were Latino, 0.6% were Asians, and 2.9% were other racial categories.
- 65.9% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 14.9% were married, and 13.2% reported not to be married now.
- 21.0% of admissions had less than high school education, 54.5% completed high school, and 24.4% had more than high school education.
- 33.6% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 10.0% of those admitted were homeless.
- 11.3% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Third Middlesex Senatorial District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Third Middlesex Senatorial District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	1,408	1,123	411	437	291	395	268
FY '96	1,253	959	365	368	253	390	257
FY '97	1,312	1,058	393	335	191	366	256
FY '98	1,383	1,077	373	363	161	429	292
FY '99	1,443	1,050	423	390	182	514	369
FY '00	1,243	883	321	304	131	466	349
FY '01	1,326	883	323	295	104	570	393

- Since peaking in FY 1998, residents of Third Middlesex Senatorial District reported a leveling off in alcohol use.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting heroin use increased by 44%, while cocaine decreased by 32% and crack declined by more than 60%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Third Middlesex Senatorial District.

Table 2 Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	41.3%	38.6%	4.6%	2.8%	1.6 %
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While heroin as a primary drug of use in your Senatorial District was higher than the State average, alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, and crack as a primary drug was lower within your District.